

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

April 4, 2002

LB 796, 1054

Schimek amendment. Please vote if you care to. Record.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of Senator Schimek's amendment.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Schimek amendment is adopted.

CLERK: Senator Schimek would move to amend with AM3377. (Legislative Journal page 1226.)

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Schimek, you're recognized to open.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Mr. President and members. This is a more substantive amendment and this is...this was originally LB 796, if you wish to look on your little gadget. It was a bill regarding recalls that was brought to the Government Committee last year, and the committee heard the bill on February 28th. We advanced it to General File. It was on an 8-0 vote. It's really almost a consent calendar bill. We adopted it as our priority bill last year and it got lost in the shuffle. And it really kind of...it kind of was on the back burner and all of a sudden we decided that we better try to move along with it this year. I would like to briefly describe for you what this bill does. The main part of it...well, let me...let me step backwards just a moment. Over the course of the last three or four years we've had some hearings on recall provisions in our statutes and there was a particularly significant one that we had about three or four years ago out in Grand Island and it was at the League of Municipalities' annual convention. And we had a room full of mayors and city council people who came to us and testified and said, you know, we don't have any re...we don't have any wish to get rid of recall statutes, but it is so easy right now to recall somebody from office and there is little or no avenue by which you can defend yourself if somebody takes out a recall petition. And it does two things that are really, really harmful to the process. It tears communities apart and it discourages people from running for office. And so we've looked at these statutes, the Government Committee has looked at these statutes over the past few years and had trouble coming to an agreement on what we could do to make the statutes better. We didn't want to do too